THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, bifurcated manpower of male and female employees in BCCL as on 1.5.1973 is not available. However, the number of female employees in Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) as on 1.12.1973 and 1.5.1978 are as under:—

| Female employees as on | |
|---|---|
| 1.12.1973 (earliest available date) | 1.5.1978 |
| 16,368 | 19,118 |

(b) There is no such policy in BCCL to discourage female employment.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

**Losses in Singareni Coalfields Limited**

2762. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singareni Coalfields have suffered losses during the last two years; if so, the losses suffered during the year 1997 and so far in the current year;

(b) the causes of the loss; and

(c) the measures Government have taken/propose to take to cut losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The losses incurred by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 are Rs. 190.81 crores and Rs. 246.95 crores, respectively.

The audited annual accounts of SCCL for the year 1997-98 will be available only in September.

The main reasons for losses incurred by SCCL are:

(i) Low productivity particularly in opencast mines and high cost of production mainly because of high stripping ratio in opencast mines.

(ii) Limited possibility of going in for more open-cast mines on account of lack of opencastable reserve.

(iii) Adverse law and order situation and intermittent strikes and industrial indiscipline causing substantial production losses almost every year.

(iv) High interest burden on account of skewed debt-equity ratio.

The Government have taken the following measures to reduce the losses in SCCL:

(i) Deregulation of prices of A, B & C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 22.3.96 and deregulation of the pricing of D grade of non-coking coal with effect from 12.3.97.

(ii) Allowing SCCL to revise the prices of E, F & G grades of non-coking coal keeping in view the escalation formula prescribed in 1987 report of BICP.

(iii) Investment of Rs. 458.00 crorres as equity (including conversion of loan amounting to Rs. 402 crores) during the VIII Plan period.

(iv) Extension of a loan of Rs. 149.52 crores during VIII Plan period.

(v) Extension of bilateral credit of Rs. 403.84 crores during VIII Plan period.

(vi) Investment of Rs. 80.22 crores as equity in 1997-98 and extension of Rs. 77.50 crores as loan and Rs. 40.70 crores as bilateral credit in 1997.98

**ललमटिया कोयला खानों में कार्य कर रहे विस्थापित लोग**

2763. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ललमटिया कोयला खानों में कितने विस्थापित लोगों को अब तक नौकरी दी गई है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि ललमटिया कोयला परियोजना के अंतर्गत विस्थापित लोगों के नाम पर प्रभावित लोगों की जगह अन्य लोगों को नौकरियां दी गई हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो वास्तव में विस्थापित लोगों को कब तक नौकरियां दी जायेंगी तथा गैर-वास्तविक लोगों को वहां से हटाया जाएगा; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

**कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलिप राय):** (क) अब तक लालमटिया खानों की परियोजनाओं (राजमहल परियोजना) से 1006 प्रभावित व्यक्तियों को नौकरी दी गई है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) के उत्तर को दृष्टिगत करते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

**Modernisation of Coal Mines**

2764. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) total number of coal mines where superior grade non-coking coal is being produced at present and how many of such mines are located in Maharashtra with details thereof; and

(b) what steps are being taken for the modernisation of these coal mines and their washeries, particularly, in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) 339 Coal Mines in Coal India Limited produce superior grades of non-coking coal (grades A, B & C), out of which 46 coal mines are located in the state of Maharashtra.

(b) Of these 23 mines are modern opencast mines. The other 23 are underground mines. Modern underground technology is proposed to be introduced in two of these mines.

**Payment of Royalty on Coal to West Bengal**

2765. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that revised rates of royalty on coal are operative since 1991;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that these revised/enhanced rates are not being paid to the State of West Bengal;

(c) if so, the loss incurred by the State on account of this; and

(d) the time and manner to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (d) In addition to royalty on coal, several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Acts imposing such cesses had been struck down by the Supreme Court and the High Courts except in the case of West Bengal the Acts of the State are pending the decision of the Supreme Court. As the cesses in West Bengal are levied at a rate much higher than the royalty on coal, the rates of coal royalty introduced in August, 1991 are continuing in the State of West Bengal. The royalty rates revised on 11.10.94 were also not extended to West Bengal since no State other than West Bengal continued to levy the cesses.